

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 292144 TOSEC 310338

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, CIEC

SUBJECT: CIEC MINISTERIAL

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON

1. AS HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED, THE EC SUMMIT OF NOVEMBER 29-30 DID NOT PRODUCE ANY SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS ON CIEC. PEREZ GUERRERO HAD TOLD US PRIVATELY IN PARIS THAT A DESIRE TO KEEP PRESSURE ON THE EC TO COME UP WITH DECISIONS ON CIEC AT THE SUMMIT WAS ONE REASON FOR THE G-19'S DESIRE TO DEFER UNTIL LATER THIS WEEK A FORMAL MOVE TOWARD POSTPONEMENT OF THE MINISTERIAL. HOWEVER, THE COUNCIL STATEMENT ON CIEC SIMPLY SAYS THAT FURTHER PROGRESS MUST BE MADE BY ALL TO REACH A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION AND AFFIRMS THAT THE EC IS PREPARED TO MAKE AS POSITIVE A CONTRIBUTION AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF ITS OWN ECONOMIC SITUATION. THERE WERE APPARENTLY NO DECISIONS ON THE MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES (E.G. DEBT, COMMODITIES, ETC.)

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2. IN BRIEFING THE PRESS AFTER THE SUMMIT MEETING, THE DUTCH SPOKESMAN SAID THE COUNCIL "DID NOT ENDORSE POSTPONEMENT OF CIEC." HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS PRESS REPORTS FROM THE HAGUE THAT THE EC TAKES THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE MINISTERIAL AS A GIVEN. THIS WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE

MAJOR REASON FOR THE ABSENCE OF ANY CONCRETE DECISIONS ON CIEC AT THE SUMMIT. SCHMIDT WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THERE IS LITTLE USE IN THE EC ESTABLISHING DETAILED PROPOSALS UNTIL THE VIEWS OF THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION BECOME CLEARER.

3. WE HAVE PASSED TO THE CANADIANS THE PRESS GUIDANCE WE HAVE PROPOSED ON THE SUBJECT OF POSTPONEMENT. MACEACHEN WILL MEET PEREZ GUERRERO LATE TOMORROW, AND THE CANADIANS WILL FILL US IN ON THE RESULTS ON THURSDAY. ROBINSON

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